



COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – SIXTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Press Release

For Immediate Release
September 6, 2005

Contact: Kevin Smith
619-533-6469

Frye Protects Consumers from Price Gouging

Takes lead on passing an unfair pricing practices resolution

San Diego, CA- Today, Councilmember Donna Frye led the City Council in a unanimous vote to protect San Diego residents from potential price gouging as a result of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf region.

At the request of Frye, City Attorney Michael Aguirre drafted an emergency ordinance that declares a city-wide state of emergency with respect to gas prices. This ordinance amends the municipal code and makes it a misdemeanor to increase gas prices excessively and without justification.

"It is of the highest priority that I do everything I can to protect San Diego consumers from any unscrupulous businesses that seek to profit from the terrible consequences of Hurricane Katrina by price gouging San Diegans," stated Frye.

Under state law, the penalties for price manipulation are six months in jail and/or \$1,000 a day for each violation. Service station owners would also be subject to unfair business practice claims under the State Business and Professions Code.

###